

Clusters, a World War II Victory Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal and a Purple Heart.

Prior to 1966, his war service to our Nation included World War II and Korea, with 201 combat missions. In January of that year, Colonel Underwood was deployed to Vietnam from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in eastern North Carolina. While there, he bravely and nobly performed 22 combat missions.

Unfortunately, on March 18th, 1966, Colonel Underwood's F-105 Thunderchief was shot down. He was then listed MIA for 12 long years and was ultimately declared dead. The Underwood family was forced to suffer not only with a tremendous and almost unbearable loss, but also with a great deal of uncertainty. It was not until recently that Colonel Underwood's remains were recovered in North Vietnam.

Yesterday, 32 years to the date of his death, I had the honor and privilege to have the humbling experience of attending Colonel Underwood's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery. Mr. Speaker, I cannot express in words what this experience meant to me. So many, far too many, young Americans have been seriously wounded and have even given their lives for this country. So many families have suffered.

I would like to take this opportunity tonight to recognize and honor Colonel Underwood and his family and all those who have sacrificed and have either lost their own lives or lost a loved one in service to this Nation.

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Ms. Gloria Underwood is a role model to us all. She is a remarkably strong person who, despite suffering through an almost unbelievable ordeal for 32 years now, managed to rise above many difficulties and to raise a fine family. I thank her from the bottom of my heart for including me in yesterday's very special service.

I would like also to remind the Underwoods and all families who have faced similar tragedies that, as sorrowful and difficult as the loss of a loved one in service must be, it is not in vain; it is for America and for all her future generations. Brave soldiers like Colonel Underwood are the Nation's strength.

The words are best expressed in the following lines written by Ralph Waldo Emerson in his poem, "A Nation's Strength," and I quote,

Not gold but only men can make a people great and strong; men who for truth and honor's sake stand fast and suffer long. Brave men who work while others sleep, who dare while others fly, they build a nation's pillars deep and lift them to the sky.

Mr. Speaker, an American hero has returned home to his family and a grateful nation to take his place among the many war heroes that are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. He rose and fought and died for the many freedoms that we too many times take for granted.

I salute Colonel Paul Underwood, a true American hero, and his family and all those who have fought and died and suffered loss in the name of freedom. The men like Colonel Underwood have truly given this Nation its strength. Let us never forget their sacrifices, Mr. Speaker. And God bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. DELAURO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MORELLA addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. RIGGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ISTOOK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DIALOGUE ON RACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I called a special order tonight with a bipartisan delegation, Members of Congress that traveled from Washington to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma during March 6 through the 8th. Along with Members of the Congress that included AMO HOUGHTON, EARL HILLIARD, SHERROD BROWN, TOM BARRETT, KAREN

THURMAN, FRED UPTON, DIANA DEGETTE, ELIOT ENGEL, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, we also had the head of the National Democratic Committee, Roy Roman, and Jim Nicholson, the Republican National Committee chair.

This trip was to be part of a dialogue on race, which was sponsored by Faith and Politics Institute under the leadership of Doug Tanner. These Members decided to travel to Birmingham to the site of the 16th Street Baptist Church and visit the church where four little girls were killed by a bomb on September 15, 1963, and from there to visit the Civil Rights Museum and to see some of the historic sites that changed America.

From there we traveled to the City of Montgomery, where we had an opportunity to visit the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church that Martin Luther King, Jr., was called to pastor in 1954 and where he led the successful Montgomery bus boycott.

We had an opportunity while we were in Montgomery to visit former Governor George Wallace and to talk with him, to shake his hand, to tour the capitol in the City of Montgomery, to visit the Civil Rights Memorial there and travel from Montgomery on early Sunday morning to the City of Selma, where we attended service at the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church. And later we had lunch that was sponsored by the mayor of Selma, Mayor Smitherman.

In 1965, 33 years ago, in the City of Selma only 2.1 percent of blacks of voting age were registered to vote. In one county between Selma and Montgomery, Loundes County, that we traveled through on our way to Selma, in 1965 that county was more than 80 percent African-American. There was not a single registered African-American voter. But today in Selma in Loundes County in the State of Alabama we have witnessed unbelievable changes. It is a different State. It is a different place.

What I would like to do now, Mr. Speaker, is to yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), my colleague and the co-chair of the Faith and Politics Institute and one of the real leaders of this whole Dialogue on Race.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I am, obviously, honored and really moved to be here, as I was when we went on that extraordinary weekend. I think we all sort of feel that we walk in the shadow of JOHN LEWIS. We can reconstruct history. We can read about it. But to be part of history with a man like JOHN LEWIS, who was there and who suffered all the humiliations and the physical beatings and the agonies of those times was really something.

I mean, I do not think I will ever get over it. As I mentioned to Mr. LEWIS, it was almost like my trip to the Holy Land. It was a religious experience. This was a group that did not have any legislative program. We did not want